

# A LETTER OF APPEAL

TO BISHOPS AND CLERGYMEN.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 1, 1896.

*Right Reverend and Dear Sir:*

I trust to your indulgence while I ask your kind attention to the enclosed leaflets concerning Vivisection—as also to the paragraphs I have marked in the periodicals sent you under separate cover.

Our efforts and investigations are fraught with grave difficulties. Closed doors confront us—often doubly barred with falsehood and deceit—and only a brave student ventures to reveal what is done within.

Our Society has on record the names of many distinguished medical authorities who oppose Vivisection as practically valueless and unjustifiably cruel; and however useful some may deem it, as a means of fresh discovery, in the hands of skilled men, we strongly denounce the torture of living animals by, or in the presence of students—and we beg your assistance as we strive to create a public opinion which shall demand that well-known, cruel, oft-repeated experiments be positively abolished from the class room—and restricted within the narrow limits of dissection or painless experimentation.

Many parents are unaware of the nature of these practices, and a word of counsel from the pulpit would be to many the first warning given of these soul-poisoning influences rapidly increasing among us, which mean death to all moral and spiritual gain.

Without an awakened public sentiment our efforts for improved legislation must be vain; and as the matter now stands, while a man may be arrested for striking his horse, the most useless and horrifying tortures may be inflicted and prolonged, without interference, if the perpetrator claims they are done in the name of (so-called) Science.

And it is not only against the horrors of Vivisection that we ask your longed-for assistance; for almost all our dealings with the brute creation are marked with great and needless cruelty.

The ruthless slaughter of birds—estimated at five millions in one year—sacrificed for personal adornment—the ranch cattle doomed to a lingering death from hunger and cold (recently estimated at two millions in one winter) because denied food and shelter—our pitiless methods of slaughtering—as also our equally cruel methods of ocean and railway transportation—and countless other cruelties (which remain unobserved and without protest save in these localities where act-

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ive Humane Societies have made their influence felt) need reproof, and testify to our inhuman treatment of these defenseless beings

In England, on the fourth Sunday after Trinity, known there as "Kindness to Animals" Sunday, many sermons were preached upon man's obligations to the brute creation.

One Sunday recently (Oct. 27) in Syracuse, in response to special request, in thirty different churches sermons were likewise preached in behalf of our humane cause.

We greatly need your help to bring this subject before the conscience of the people, and we would respectfully urge that the clergy of your diocese (as in Illinois, by pastoral letter through the official organ), be requested to devote one Sunday (the fourth after Trinity, if agreeable,) each year, in pulpit and Sunday School, to such instruction and admonition: and that financial assistance (on that Sunday) be asked and given to the local or State Society for the protection of the brute creation.

For every dollar at our disposal we need a thousand to enable us to increase our work, and to extend it to those districts where, as yet, neither humane law nor sentiment exists, and where the abuse is distressing to contemplate. The incredibly cruel cases constantly relieved by existing societies prove how greatly needed, in every community, is such protective influence, under whose merciful shadow justice and relief may be obtained.

And for further enlightenment as to that which so closely concerns this speechless race, we would urge that a humane periodical should find a welcome in every household. "Our Dumb Animals" (subscription only fifty cents a year), edited at great expense, and with exceptional ability, is an anticipated guest in thousands of homes of culture and progress—published by G. T. Angell, 19 Milk Street, Boston, Massachusetts, who will gladly furnish "lesson papers," leaflets, and any information desired.

I have hesitated greatly to intrude upon you. I have done so in behalf of others.

Believe me, with great respect.

Sincerely yours.

A Vice President of the American Humane Education Society, Boston, and of the Anti-Vivisection Society, Aurora, Illinois.

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For literature above referred to address postal card to Mr. Angell. For this Letter (30c per 100, post paid) and other A. - V. Literature address the Illinois Anti-Vivisection Society, Aurora, Ill.